Increase of Heart Cases in the country

978. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while heart attacks have decreased by 20-25 per cent in the United States in the last decade, more and more people are becoming vulnerable to the disease in India;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to issue any do's and don'ts to enlighten the people in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the details in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) While there is a reported reduction in mortality rates from cardiovascular diseases in the USA since 1968, the prevalence rates of these diseases in USA have, in fact, registered an increase over the years. There are no authentic data regarding prevalence of heart diseases in India and it is difficult to say whether the apparent increase in heart cases is due to increased awareness amongst the population or due to an actual increase.

(c) and (d) Health Education is an important component of all health programmes and steps are taken to educate the people through mass media on various health problems including heart problems.

979. [*Transferred to the 12th March 1987*].

Printing of warning about excess Flouride on Tooth Paste

980. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference recently held at Madras recommended printing of a warning on tooth pastes that 'excess flouride' is injurious or harmful to health;

(b) if so, what is the maximum permissible limit of flouride content in the toothpaste; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Maximum permissible limit of flouride content in tooth paste has not yet been fixed.

(c) A Committee is being constituted to advise Government of the matter regarding permissible limits of flouride content in tooth paste.

Buildings for Schools

981. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some instructions have been issued to various States and Union territories for the construction of buildings for primary, elementary, middle and high schools;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether instructions have also been issued for providing other facilities in schools and if so, what are the details in regard thereto; and

(d) what amount was earmaked for the purpose for the year 1986-87 and how much out of it has so far been spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d) As per the

National Policy on Education and Programme of Action construction of school buildings will be the first charge on NREP and RLEGP funds. Those resources will be supplemented by other appropriate schemes. The Department of Rural Development has communicated to the State Governments that higher priority should be given to works which are required for infrastructure development under poverty all aviation programmes, particularly construction of primary school buildings in those revenue villages which have primary schools without buildings. Under RLEGP the construction of primary school buildings is to be taken up on a first priority in those revenue villages which have primary schools without buildings of their own. In addition the National Policy on Education envisages a phased drive symbolically called Operation Blackboard, to be undertaken with immediate effect to improve primary schools all over the country. The Programme of Action describes the measures to be undertaken under Operation Blackboard to ensure the provision of essential facilities in primary school—material facilities as well as learning equipment consisting of two reasonably large rooms that are usable in all weather, necessary toys & materials, blackboards, maps, charts and other learning materials. There was no provision of funds in 1986-87 as the Policy and Programme of Action were formulated after the budget was passed.

National Aids Control Strategy

982. SHRI J.P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a National AIDS Control Strategy;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to make it meaningful and result oriented;

(c) whether proposals for setting up surveillance centre submitted by State Governments are pending for clearance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when such proposals are likely to be cleared and the reasons for delay in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) On the first confirmed evidence of AIDS infection in 6 Indian prostitutes from Tamil Nadu in April, 1986, the Government of India, in consultation with the State Health authorities, drew up a National AIDS Control Strategy and a network of surveillance machinery all over the country. The following steps have been taken:

1. A cell has been established in the Directorate General of Health services to coordinate AIDS Control activity in the country.

2. All the centres have been provided with diagnostic reagents and equipment package have also been provided to most of them.

3. Restrictions have been imposed on import of blood and blood products without AIDS clearance certificates.

4. All the State Health authorities Hospitals/STD clinics have been alerted to look for AIDS.

5. All the blood banks have been instructed to screen the professional blood doners.

6. All the State Health authorities have been advised to ensure strict sterilisation practices in hospitals and clinics and to use pre-sterilised disposable syringes and needles as far as possible.

7. Guidelines have been sent to all the State Health authorities for health care personnel.

8. All the mass media channels have been involved in educating the people on AIDS, its nature, transmission and prevention.